

POINT THREE



The TocH magazine June 1978 10p



POINT THREE

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'The month of June, according to immemorial custom, is as cold as Christmas. I had a fire last night and all my rosebuds, I believe, would have been very glad to sit by it.'

Horace Walpole in 1784



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

VIEWPOINT

I'm not superstitious so I'm sure that there's no significance in the fact that this is the 13th issue of *Point Three* since I became editor. (It's all right, I've got my fingers crossed!)

In my first issue (June 1977), I spoke of the importance of the magazine and of the difficulty of holding the price. Since then, I have been able to visit many of you in your branches and Districts to discuss these matters more fully with you and I intend to go on doing so as much as I can. Your response has been very good, but, like Oliver Twist, I want some more!

Many of you have accepted my assessment of the main purpose of the magazine. I said then, '*I see Point Three primarily as our means of really meeting each other by sharing news and raising and discussing live issues with the whole family*'. I have been delighted by the number of letters you have written to me and by the variety of news you have sent in. In particular, I have been heartened by the volume of correspondence we have been able to publish and by its forthright coverage of some very important issues. Please keep it up. On the other hand, I have been disappointed by the lack of adverse criticism. I've had some – most of it trenchant! – but not enough. I really would be most grateful if more of you would write to tell me what you like in *Point Three* and – even more – what you don't like.

So much for content. On finance, the present position is this:

The CEC has agreed to hold the price at 10p a copy until it reviews the situation in December 1978.

I have taken several measures to hold printing costs this year despite a steep general price rise. These include using a lighter paper which has also cut postal costs.

Some individual subscribers and branches are now paying their own postage; others have arranged private delivery by hand. The cost of producing *Point Three* this year is just less than 10p a copy. What we are losing – and it is a large sum – is the cost of postage. Please discuss this in your branches and groups and see if you can help. I am printing at the end of this note examples of postal charges which may assist in your discussions.

You may decide to join those who either pay their own postage or collect their own copies. Another idea is to increase your order to the limit of the existing postage charge and either sell the extra copies or give them away to selected potential readers. St Helier Branch (Jersey) for example is now buying 50 extra copies each month for distribution to all clergy in their locality one month, all head teachers the next, and so on. You might decide to increase your order of a particular issue featuring some activity in your area (One Region has just bought 250 extra copies of an issue featuring one of their major projects). Have you thought of ordering extra copies to sell locally? (One Youth Action Group has agreed to try selling 100 copies a month.) It is certainly worthwhile putting copies in libraries, doctors' waiting rooms, etc – occasionally I get letters from readers who meet *Point Three* that way. There are plenty of ideas around; but also to increase the number of readers both inside and outside the Movement, so please don't look at the sample postage costs listed below and then decide to reduce your order!

I remain convinced that we have a good magazine and, if we all help, we can make it better. I'm not an ambitious chap but I shall find it difficult to rest until every member buys at least one copy of *Point Three* and we approach the point where we are paying our way – including the cost of postage!

FGR

POSTAL CHARGES

No of copies	1	2 or 3	6	9	10	11-16	17-21	22-42
Cost in pence	7	12	18½	32½	36	54	66	86

What's happening in SPRINGFIELDS?

For the past seven years, Springfields (Surrey) District Development Team has had close contact with Cheyne Hospital's severely handicapped children.

These range in age from 5-11 and most of them are confined to wheelchairs. Part of this contact has involved providing holidays and Christmas parties. The holidays started with day trips of all kinds and built up by 1976 to a week's holiday in Deal. The TAVR helped with equipment and drivers, Deal Scouts erected tents and local members helped in many ways — some of them surprising to their friends and neighbours. Deal eyebrows were raised, for example, at the sight of 40 nappies blowing each day on the washing line of a couple whose children had married and moved away long before!

In 1977, the holiday camp moved to the grounds of Hengrave Hall, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk. Guides and Scouts provided and erected tents, the

local Mothers' Union took on the nappy washing and again the TAVR turned up trumps. (This year, one of the drivers was a regular soldier giving up his annual leave.) With poorer weather and an inland site, day trips demanded more imagination — but the Development Team is not short of that! There were visits to a wild life park, boating on the Cambridge Backs and a grand tour of the USAF Base at Mildenhall. This included a fire fighting demonstration (when the kids gave the coach a long overdue wash!), a disco, a tea party and a police dog handling display.

Plans are advanced for a 1978 holiday in the same place. ('Please, can we go for a month next year?')

Volunteers from the last two years have now formed a group meeting at the Croydon Centre and are becoming involved in the local community. It's growing each year — where will it end?



Photo: USAF



Photos: Bob Mills

IN BRIEF...

■ We have heard from more than one source of the huge success of the Alison House 10th birthday celebrations held on one of April's few bright, sunny Saturdays. 27 former staff and CEC members of the Women's Association spent the weekend in the house and on the Saturday some 300 people turned up for the anniversary celebrations. There were far too many people to fit into one place — even the conference centre — so everything was done twice over! Colonel Peter Hilton, Derbyshire's Lord Lieutenant, performed the opening ceremony (twice!) and was formally thanked (twice!) by Councillor Norman Wilson, County Council Chairman. 300 teas were served in the dining room and the Toc H Minstrels entertained (twice!). For those staying in the house, there was a Communion Service on Sunday followed by overseas news and a lively discussion on how to apply fair thinking in today's multi-racial Britain. The weekend was a financial success as well as being a social triumph. The Toc H Minstrels raised £100 for the Family Purse and the stalls, raffles, etc produced £320 for Alison House.

■ Netherton (W Midlands) Men's and Women's Branches recently entertained 50 lonely people in their area. Their members compiled a list of people living alone, visited them and invited them to a party. The ladies provided the tea, local artistes entertained the whole gathering and all guests received a personal gift from Toc H.

■ In our October 1977 issue, we published an appeal from Brunel Branch for Green Shield stamps. They needed 300 books to enable them to raise a disco unit so that they could put on regular mini-handis in a Bristol Home for the Handicapped. Penny Smith tells us that they have reached their target and hope to present the disco unit to the Home in May on the occasion of their first 'mini'. Penny has asked me to pass on Brunel's warm thanks to all those readers who sent in stamps.

■ In April, the original Warrington Youth Action Group held a buffet and disco at the Grappenhall Community Centre to celebrate their 50th meeting. Among the guests were a party of local disabled people, Jim Waltham and family (one of their rare evenings together!) and representatives of Warrington's latest group 'Gemini'. Group Chairman Dave Jackson outlined the group's achievements and some of their plans for the future. I've lost count of the Warrington

groups but elsewhere in this issue is a picture of some of the founder members of 'Gemini' — the newest. There is now a Warrington District which has just held its first DEC meeting.

■ I noted an interesting item in a recent West Midlands/South Wales newsletter. Redditch (Worcestershire) Men's Branch has helped to recruit 65 volunteers for the local Samaritans. One branch member helped to prevent a young woman from committing suicide by jumping from the balcony of a six storey flat.

■ In April we printed a full article about the Chippenham (Wilts) Branch and District 'Tapes for the Handicapped' scheme. The key man in this operation is Reg Coates and he tells me that a number of Toc H members were inspired by the article to write to him for advice on starting a similar service in their own areas. The Chippenham project is still growing and the tapes include quite a lot of Toc H material, including selections from the national 'Topic on Tape' series. They now produce seven one hour programmes each month and 110 copies of each programme ie they distribute 770 tapes a month. Reg would be more than ready to give full working details to any branch interested. Further, he is willing to show his own 16mm colour film about the scheme to any branch within reasonable distance of his home. These are two splendid offers of help. Reg's address is: 27 Sadler's Road, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 3PB.

■ At a recent members' training day in Chippenham led by Southern Region staff members, Tom Gulliver and Rev Bob Knight, discussion centred on a 'A Ticket for a Journey' — Ken Prideaux-Brun's new book about the significance of Toc H in the modern world. This book sold out so quickly that we have had a substantial reprint. It is a book we should all read and discuss among ourselves and with interested friends outside the Movement. If you haven't got your copy yet, you can get it now (price 50p plus postage at 15p for a single copy or 50p for four or more copies) from Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT.

■ The annual dinner of the Lowestoft (Suffolk) Men's and Women's Branches saw the retirement of three stalwarts from a very long period of service to the deaf. The branches' Deaf Club ran during the 1930s and was re-opened in 1946 with Dorothy Long as Secretary and Charles Beamish as Treasurer. The Committee

was later joined by Joan Beamish of Oulton Broad (Suffolk) Women's Branch. In 1960, the social side of this very active club was taken over by a deaf member. The original two continued to deal with administration and church services until now when these aspects of the work, too, have become self supporting. Toc H members, of course, will carry on their work of local publicity and fund raising and their work rota for providing teas etc. Jim Prior, the local Member of Parliament, and Mrs Prior have always taken a great interest in the Deaf Club and were both present at this year's dinner.

■ Seaford (E Sussex) Joint Branch launched last year a project they called SPASM (Special Project to Acquire a Seaford Minibus). The aim was to raise £5,000 by 2 June 1978 — the 25th Anniversary of HM the Queen's Coronation. In the first nine months — up to March 1978 — their heroic and wide ranging money raising efforts raised £3,600, so they are within reach of their target. Toc H Seaford will own, garage and maintain the bus and will make it available to any local charitable organisation whose services to the community would be enlarged by its use. They are already accepting advance bookings!

SPASM is only the latest major project of this very busy branch. I have just been reading the current edition of *Lamplight*, the branch's monthly newsletter. This is an exceptionally well produced newsheet, which shows clear evidence of vitality, enthusiasm and an impressive range of work in hand.

■ In April, some 400 North Derbyshire senior citizens 'homed in' on Lady Manners School, Bakewell for the annual concert organised by Bakewell (Derbyshire) Joint Branch. This event is always strongly supported by offers of help and gifts in cash or kind from a wide range of friends. On this occasion, the branch chairman distributed gift parcels and the Mayor of Bakewell presented gifts to Newholme Hospital patients and the residents of the Sheffield Cheshire Home. A varied entertainment was provided by the Little John Players and the Hathersage Gladys Wilson Singers. St John Ambulance Brigade members cared for the disabled throughout the evening.

■ With the help of a donation from the widow of a member of Sheffield Joint Branch a table has been bought for the garden at Alison House. This is in memory of Harold Birch who died last December and had been a member of Toc H for 50 years.

WELCOME

The following branches elected new members during April:

- 8 — Gemini (Warrington) (j) Group
- 4 — Fakenham (j), North Nottingham (j)
- 3 — Garforth (w)
- 2 — Central Overseas, Ilminster (m), Melton Mowbray (w), New Milton (j), Pocklington Court (j), Skelmersdale (j) Group, Welshpool (m)
- 1 — Allestree (w), Bournemouth and Christchurch (j), Brunel (Bristol) (j), Gedling (j), Hull Action (j) Group, Inner London District, Leeds (m), Maltby-le-Marsh (j), Market Rasen (m), Nailsea (m), Plympton (w), Richmond (Yorkshire) (w), St Albans (w), Saffron Walden (j), Shirehampton (m), Tower Hill (j), Wolverhampton (w), Wyre Forest (j) Group

A warm welcome to 53 new members

FOR YOUR DIARY

The Inner London District
invite you to
AFTERNOON TEA
at The Holme, Regent's Park,
on Saturday 29 July at 3 pm

If the weather is kind, tea will be served in the lovely lakeside gardens and there will be displays of English and Bangladeshi folk dancing on the terrace.

Families especially welcomed.
Tickets (75p adults, 50p children)
from Ken & Shelagh Woolley,
100 Lebanon Road, East Croydon,
Surrey.
(Please enclose s a c)

'Nothing recalls the past so potently as a smell. In default of a smell, the next best mnemonic is a tune. I have tunes in my head for every war I have been to, and indeed for every critical or exciting phase in my life. Some day, when my ship comes home, I am going to have them all collected on gramophone records, and then I will sit in a chair and smoke my cigar while pictures and faces, moods and sensations long vanished return: and pale but true there gleams the light of other days.'

Winston Churchill

Through the open window

by Guy Brinkworth SJ

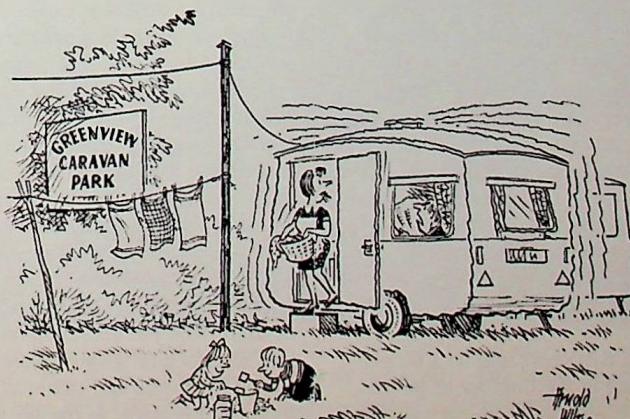
GRATITUDE



It is a scorching afternoon and the seaside sun beats relentlessly down. Through the open window I look over the sprouts and caulis to the apple trees and just discern my cat stretched out in their shade, every relaxed muscle proclaiming gratitude for the cool. My mind goes back a few days when I heard Handel's Largo and the DJ's explanation that the beautiful piece was the expression of a man's thanks to the trees which gave him such relief from the oppressive heat of noon. And how on the very same day I had read out during the service the story of Naaman the grateful pagan and Christ's sad disappointment when nine of the ten lepers He had cured did not even say 'Thank you': 'Where are the other nine?'

'Blow, blow thou winter wind — thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude!' Indeed, we have all suffered — some most acutely — from the selfish ingratitude of others. And what of my own behaviour at times?

And as I reflect I realise that our gratitude must go beyond the sheltering tree, the lucky circumstance, the helpful friend. We read in the Bible how when the prophet Jonah, miserable with indignation was overcome by the midday heat, God grew a castor oil bush overnight to shelter him. Yes indeed, 'only God can make a tree'. Here I am surrounded by beauty, grandeur and marvel: the wonder of the teeming and relentless sea, the soaring, singing birds, the busy hum of insects. By so many generous and kind friends. Am I humble enough to be profoundly grateful for all these literally innumerable mercies and blessings? To my Father in Heaven Who ultimately is behind them all, Who clothes the lilies of the field and calls each star by its name. We must go beyond that 'tree' — to the Creator who made it. Small wonder that tears of gratitude welled up in the eyes of that erstwhile tough campaigner, St Ignatius, when he thought on the blessings which God had surrounded him with. 'You are before me, You are behind me, You hem me on all sides' cried the Psalmist: 'How can I be grateful enough?'. And looking on to the garden below I see that pile of earth I heaped up this morning and my mind goes back consoled to that story of Naaman (2 Kings c5). For when the prophet Elisha refused to accept anything valuable as the wealthy pagan's thank offering, the latter ingeniously gave him a couple of mule loads of sand! Dear Father in Heaven — it may be only sand I can give You in gratitude — but even my poor sand can sing my never ceasing, continual and in due course obsessive 'thank you'. 'Pray without ceasing' said the great Apostle of the Gentiles and it seems to me that here we have a possible motif for our enduring turning to the Father. And St Paul also told us that God loves a cheerful giver. Perhaps, even more so, does our Creator love the grateful! With respect, indeed, we might add a ninth Beatitude: 'Happy is the grateful heart'.



'Just because electricity is laid on, did you have to bring the washing machine?'

OBITUARY

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In February: Florence D J Lulham (Hampden Park)

In March: Joseph Bibby (Dalton-in-Furness), Monica M Bishop (E C & Tower Hill), Cyril Brown (Barton-on-Humber), Roland P Elston (Wolds District), Irene A Gwynne (South West Counties), Kathleen Horsley (Allestree), Sarah E Lodwick (Stamford), Joseph A McKenzie (Ilminster), Walter H Porter (Alvechurch), George Wells (Bridlington)

In April: Wallace Abbott (Coney Hall), Mabel M Davey (West Worthing), James C Fishwick (Barrow-on-Humber), Ethel Hammond (Stopsley), Rev Herbert G Rolls (Bishop's Castle), F Robert Watts (Corleston & Great Yarmouth)
Rev George Crossland (Cirencester)

Ken Prideaux-Brunne



Friday, 21 April, was a very special day. At a District meeting in Southampton I was privileged to welcome into the Family a new group, known — for reasons which I still find slightly obscure — as the Magpies. Over 100 people, ranging in age from 12 to 30, are associated with this group. Several residents of Talbot House Young Seafarers' Club, which is now more closely linked with Toc H activity than for many years, play a leading part in the group. The main job undertaken by the Magpies is the creation of an adventure playground at a children's home in Southampton. They also maintain an active social life.

As their Rushlight the new group has been given the Lamp made by men who were prisoners at Changi during the Second World War. I have no doubt that they are worthy of entering on this rich heritage. They were particularly delighted to receive a letter of greeting and encouragement from Colonel Gilbert, a survivor of Changi, now living in Jersey.

While in the Southern Region, John Hull and I were glad to be able also to attend a gathering of members in the Wessex and New Forest Districts. And we were particularly delighted to hear of the first steps towards the formation of another new young group, based in Bournemouth.

* * *

I suppose we are all vaguely aware of the fact that the next 20 years will see a staggering increase in the number of elderly people in this country. Figures quoted by David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, at the AGM of Help the Aged in April, brought the position home to me rather more concretely. By 1996, he said, it is anticipated that there will be a 60 per cent increase in the number of people over 85. He also spoke about a survey of elderly people conducted for his

Department which showed that the thing which worries them most is the prospect of loneliness. Put these two facts together and, in themselves, they demonstrate the great and increasing need for Toc H.

While Mr Ennals was no doubt right to say that loneliness is a greater worry to old people than lack of money, Hugh Faulkner, the Director of Help the Aged, was also, surely, right to say at the same meeting that the present level of pensions, even taking into account the increases announced by the Chancellor in his Budget speech the previous day, is 'not merely inadequate but disgracefully inadequate'. Our primary concern must be the attempt to alleviate loneliness but we ought also, surely, to have a sense of outrage about poverty, wherever it exists. Hugh Faulkner quoted Robert MacNamara, the President of the World Bank, as saying that there are millions of people in the world who, because of poverty, 'are denied the potential of the genes with which they were born'. That is a phrase which has stuck in my mind. Although Mr MacNamara was primarily referring to the Third World, there are, to our shame, many in our own country to whom the phrase applies.

* * *

The element of hilarity, of zaniness, has, from the earliest days, been an important part of the spirit of Toc H. Now there's a group, known simply as NUTS, dedicated to ensuring that Toc H remains mad. Not, one hopes, a particularly difficult task, but worthwhile nonetheless. They are young people from different Regions who enjoy coming together occasionally and I had the privilege of spending a weekend with some of them at Port Penrhyn in April. There is always value in opportunities for people from different parts of the country to share their experience of Toc H. And it was an encouragement for me to spend some time with a group of young people who have obviously found something relevant and important in Toc H — and who have so much fun in the process. I doubt, however, whether they are really as 'way out' as they seem to think they are. I hope they won't be too offended if I say that I believe they are in the direct line of descent from our founding fathers. Men like 'Barkis' and 'Tubby' were as zany as the NUTS group and that was an important element in the spirit which built Toc H.

Rev George Crossland MC died on 3 April peacefully in hospital some weeks after an emergency operation following a fall. He was padre of our Cirencester Branch for many years, being well known and loved all over Gloucestershire, and much further afield. We extend our sympathy to his daughter Margaret, whose constant love and devotion to her father have earned the admiration of us all.

On leaving St Dunstan's College, Catford, George joined a firm of insurance brokers in the City of London as a junior clerk. After a few years he felt a call to the Ministry, and served on many Circuits before going to a Methodist Training College. Whilst there he met his future wife, who was an organist and a Sunday School teacher, as well as an accomplished artist. They were married in 1913, and in that same year he was ordained into the Methodist Ministry. They enjoyed 43 years of the happiest married life together, and he always acknowledged the wonderful help she was to him in his Ministry.

Having previously acted as an Army Chaplain during exercises on Salisbury Plain, when war was declared in 1914 he volunteered as a chaplain and served with the 21st Division in France and Belgium throughout the Great War. He was no stranger to the horrors of trench warfare, in that he served men in the front line and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry. Saddened and appalled at the ghastly slaughter of the flower of British manhood, yet he remembered with pride and affection the courage, the comradeship and the humour of the ordinary soldier amidst the carnage and squalor all around.

In 1923 he joined Toc H, and was

amazingly active right up to the time of his accident. He initiated several of the projects carried out by the Cirencester Branch, including the collection and delivery of wood 'off-cuts' to old people in the district for their open fires. At his home he prepared used stamps, kindly given by local friends, and sold them for charity. He also collected and sent magazines and paperbacks to fishermen's welfare centres and to prison chaplains.

In 1960 he first met our Founder Padre, through Mrs Terence McHugh who is Tubby's niece. These two great men became firm friends and, not long before his death in 1973, Tubby came down from Tower Hill especially to be with George on his 90th birthday.

Although a lifelong Methodist, George always had a great affection for the Church of England, of which his wife was a member. In October last, Mr John Sainsbury, lay reader and editor of the local Parish Magazine, wrote as follows:

'We at St Peter's rejoice that the Rev George Crossland joins us so regularly for Mattins on the third Sunday each month. If, for any reason, he is not there, the service always seems to lack that special quality which he adds by his presence in his accustomed seat in the front row, lustily leading the singing of the hymns he knows and loves so well. We are all blessed in Stratton to have a man like George Crossland living amongst us and we rejoice that, in spite of his great age, his health is reasonably good and his faculties entirely unimpaired. Long may we enjoy his friendship and profit from his Christian example'.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial for his life was held in the Cirencester Methodist Church on Sunday 16 April. The Church was filled to overflowing and there were representatives from several other Methodist Churches, from Cirencester and other branches of Toc H, and from the Cirencester Probus Club, of which George was their oldest member. The service was conducted by the local Minister, the Rev Gordon Gatward, and a glowing tribute to George and his life's work was made in an admirable address by the Rev Guy Greenaway, who had known George and his family for over 40 years.

We in the Cirencester Branch, and indeed in the local community as a whole, have lost a very dear friend, but we give thanks to God for his wonderful life and we shall do our utmost to live up to the shining example which he always set.

REA

We give thanks for their lives



Photo: Kentish Times

The accent was on old time songs when Hayes (Kent) Branch gave a party for about 100 local old people. Guests were ferried to the village hall in a fleet of cars and the Hayes mini-ambulance. Their feast of soup, ham, jacket potatoes and trifle put them all in good singing voice. But, oh! the washing up afterwards!



Photo: Weston Mercury

Weston-super-Mare (Joint) Branch has just held its 29th annual party for the blind. Is this a record? The Mayor of Weston welcomed the guests. The branch meets in the Hill Road Methodist Church each Thursday evening at 7.30 pm and offers a warm welcome to visitors.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Some thoughts on the BBC's 1978 Reith Lectures

The survival of the Reith Lectures in these days of slick and sophisticated communication might well be regarded as the victory of tradition over common sense. The half hour lecture, delivered by a single voice, doesn't make for easy listening. Fortunately for those of us whose powers of concentration are unequal to the task, the talks are reprinted in full in *The Listener*. And yet, quaint as the tradition may seem, the Reith Lectures have, each year, provided a distinguished academic with a platform from which an original and challenging thesis can be delivered.

This year's lectures, given by Professor A H Halsey under the title *Change in British Society*, were particularly hard work for the listener (or reader). Even the outlines of the thesis which was being built up patiently didn't become clear until the final lecture. Parts of the lectures seemed, as sociology so often does, like statements of the obvious disguised by jargon and decorated with statistics.

Nonetheless, the problem to which Professor Halsey addressed himself is a crucial one. British society, he believes, has lost its cohesion and faith in itself. He traced the development of the problem through the history of the past 100 years, with its complex interplay of change and continuity, and then outlined, far too briefly in my view, the essential conditions for finding a solution.

He described the '*ideals which dominate modern social thought*' as Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. '*They are, so to say, the courts of appeal before which policy and practice appear as plaintiffs or defendants in an evolving trial of promise and performance.*' He went on to state the problem in these words: '*We can discern two contending traditions – the one liberal, evolutionist and long suffering, giving highest priority to liberty; the other socialist, evolutionary, critical, and giving highest priority to equality. What is most clearly evident from the British experience, in my*

opinion, is an unresolved problem of fraternity, or basis for social order, beneath the clash of egalitarian and libertarian argument. This argument is central to political debate. Fraternity, for all its relevance, is somehow left to moralists and theologians.'

In his final lecture Professor Halsey stated the problem again in different words: '*We have still to provide a common experience of citizenship in childhood and old age, in work and play, and in health and sickness. We have still, in short, to develop a common culture to replace the divided cultures of class and status.*'

He rightly warned us against the danger of seeking simple solutions to complex problems. '*Simple solutions*', he said, '*can only lead back to the barbarism of political tyranny, whether from the right or the left. Either would destroy the one element of our social heritage in which we can take pride – our long developed and tenaciously held civil liberty*'.

In what directions, then, does he seek for solutions? Firstly, he pointed to the corroding and divisive effects of the inequalities of class and status which we have inherited from the past along with our tradition of liberty. Our society is torn apart by inequalities of wealth, of influence and of environment. If it is to be strengthened '*we need principles and practices of social distribution which are acknowledged to be just by the great majority*'. And in an age when mass communications make us aware, as never before, of how the other half lives, '*these principles will be seen as just only if they are just*'.

Secondly, he suggested that we '*take our traditions of citizenship and democracy seriously in their infinite richness and inspiration... Democratic politics is essentially a system in which citizens actively mould the final decisions binding on all. It works only if liberty of thought and expression is ranked first among rights, and the active exercise of citizen-*

DO ABOUT IT?

Reith Lectures

by Ken Prideaux-Brune

ship first among duties... Bold advances towards wider citizenship – in Scotland for the Scots, in the workplace for workers, in the school for parents, in the locality for the neighbour, and so on, could evoke popular support'.

Professor Halsey believes that we must move in these directions, towards greater equality and greater participation, if we are to re-create the sense of fraternity without which no lasting society can be built. Without fraternity to hold the balance the continuing struggle between liberty and equality will eventually lead either to the tyranny of uniformity or to the unbridled law of the jungle.

These, very briefly and inadequately summarised, are what seem to me the most significant points made by Professor Halsey in this year's Reith Lectures. Put in this way they may seem somewhat abstract and academic, rather remote from our everyday concerns as Toc H members. I believe, however, that they deal with concerns which are at the heart of what we are about and I hope they will lead to both discussion and action.

Significant numbers of people are no longer prepared to treat rules and regulations with deference. Laws are no longer unquestioningly obeyed. There is no longer a set of values which the majority of people are prepared to accept or at least pay lip service to. Authority – whether Parliament or industrial managers or teachers – can no longer expect automatic obedience. And yet no society can operate successfully without a set of rules which are broadly speaking acceptable to its members. That is the problem which Professor Halsey posed, and it is a real one.

There are those who would solve it by putting the clock back and trying to revive the spirit of deference. They would attempt this partly by force – by introducing, for example, harsher penalties for vandals and hooligans – and partly by education – giving higher priority to more effective teaching of

values in our schools. Do you think that this approach provides, by itself, a realistic way of dealing with the problem?

Do you believe that we need also to take seriously the two points which Professor Halsey made? He suggested, in brief, that if people are to feel a genuine loyalty to society they must be convinced that its rewards are justly distributed. The archaic class divisions of our society must be broken down.

He also suggested that people must have a much greater say in the decisions which affect their lives, in the community and in the workplace. If this is to happen there must not only be a more democratic approach to decision making, there must also be an end to the deadening apathy which prevents people from taking the opportunities of influencing decisions which are in fact open to them. How can Toc H help to create a sense of responsibility, and encourage people to play a full part in their community association, their political party or their union?

The fundamental need, however, is for people to get to know each other, to get behind the labels we so easily use and to come to understand the real human being underneath. *'For men to know one another is not difficult and it is half the battle'*, as Barclay Baron wrote. What steps ought we to take to widen the mixture in our branch so that this vital role can be carried out more effectively?

Note: This year's Reith Lectures, *Change in British Society*, will be published in book form by Oxford University Press in the autumn. Meanwhile the six issues of *The Listener* containing the Lectures may be obtained, price £1.50 including postage, from BBC Publications, 144/152 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3TH.



Cardiff with Roath Joint Branch and Rhiwbina Men's Branch (both Mid Glam S Wales) were able to send their congratulations to a very special family on 4 April. On that day, Bert and Renee Brewer celebrated their golden wedding while their daughter Val and husband Robin had their silver wedding

anniversary on the same day. Renee has been an active Toc H member for more than 30 years and Val joined her mother in Cardiff with Roath Branch when she was 16. The instinct for self preservation then drove Bert into Rhiwbina Branch! Robin has a very long standing connection with the Boys' Brigade and his and Val's daughter Saranne is already involved with local community work. Belated but very warm congratulations to all five from Point Three.



Photo: Ron Horsley Ltd, Warrington

Warrington (Lancs) latest Youth Action Group has chosen to call itself 'Gemini'. No prizes for guessing the reason after looking at this picture of the founder members: in front, Dianne Ballatti and Cathy Pidgeon and behind, twins Jan and Susan Madden.



It is always difficult to convey atmosphere in pictures but those who know it claim that the Llanarmon yn Ial, (Clwyd, N Wales) Branch room is 'the most charming room in the UK! The branch took it over as a derelict cow shed and gradually converted it under the guidance of branch member Bob Harvey (former Clwyd County Architect). Much of the original stonework was retained and a magnificent stone chimney piece (flanked by stone fuel bunkers and two ships' navigation lights) is now the focus for the whole room. The roof has been beamed and an ingenious suspended ceiling with concealed lighting has been fitted. The stone flagged floor is carpeted. There is a fitted kitchen and a toilet unit.

The dinghy hull in the picture is being re-furbished and re-rigged by the branch for Port Penrhyn. They got it in only by removing door frames and part of the walls: we'll be interested to learn in due course how they get it out!



Photos: Aled Oldfield

PLEASE NOTE SUMMER ACTIVITIES 1978

There has been the usual rush of volunteers for this year's projects but there are still (at the time of going to press!) a few vacancies.

John Dixon (6 Sandydown Cottages, Heath House Estate, Stockbridge, Hants) would welcome male volunteers for the Cranborne Children's Camps (5 to 12 August and 12 to 19 August) and for the Springdale (Winchester) Children's Playscheme (7 to 11 August). He also has vacancies for men and women volunteers on the Shaftesbury Holiday for Mentally Handicapped Young Adults (18 to 27 August).

John Biggerstaff (Toc H Regional Centre, Toc H House, 22 Princess Road West, Leicester LE1 6TP) still has some vacancies for men and women on the following projects in this year's booklet: Nos 14, 15 to 19 (inclusive), 21, 22 and 24.

LONDON ONE-TO-ONE DAY

7,000 mentally handicapped people born in the Greater London Area are cared for in long stay hospitals. Most of these are on isolated sites outside London (when they were built, the saying was 'out of sight — out of mind').

On 17 June, these handicapped persons will be met at lunchtime in Hyde Park by their 'friends'. Introductions and any necessary professional advice over, the host (maybe with his family) will take his handicapped friend to the day's events — planned to create a carnival atmosphere with the maximum participation by everyone. At the end of the day, a quiet tea together and farewells.

This great day out for the mentally handicapped is being run by the highly experienced One-to-One team and is being funded by charities, trusts and local authority grants.

You can offer your services as a 'friend' and possibly help in other ways. All enquiries please to: Neil Field, One-to-one, c/o National Institute for Social Work, 5-7 Tavistock Place, London WC1 (Tel: 01-387-9681).

Family Matters

by Gina Vianney



MONEY — WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YOU?

Anyone who has hopefully held a Premium Bond since the day they came out, and won nothing, will feel despondent about the whole business. My attention was caught recently by a factory girl who won £25,000. When interviewed by a reporter, she said: 'I'm too overwhelmed to know what to do with it'.

She's not the only one. A great many people, from all walks of life, don't seem to know what to do with money.

Nicholas Monsarrat, author of 'The Cruel Sea', once made the refreshing admission that money had corrupted him. He's safer without it. Having made a fortune and as rapidly run through it, he settled quietly on the tiny island of Gozo to a life that was by comparison a penance. Describing his early extravagance, he says: 'A sensible boy from Liverpool wouldn't have done it, nor would a sensible old man from Malta. I've done it all, and money is not in the least important. It's no longer exciting'. All the same, he did have enough money left to buy a converted farmhouse and to write in peace — when he wasn't enjoying the lovely view and arguing with the local parish priest. Those of us struggling to pay off a mortgage, under today's inflationary system, think of him as in the luxury bracket. We could be happy if we had that.

The late King Saud of Arabia was one of the world's big spenders. His income was £100 million a year, or £12,000 an hour. On one holiday in Majorca he gave out £40,000 in tips. When he bought a new car, he gave an identical model to each of his sons and his 20 personal staff. Was he corrupt? Or generous? Wouldn't we all like to be that lavish with others?

Money is not the root of all evil. It can be happiness. It can build roads and hospitals, cure illness, finance research, end tiresome lack of facilities in a home. It can give security, and confidence, and make life worth living for so many who are having a daily struggle to exist.

So often people who say blandly, 'What's money?' are living in a place where essentials like a roof, food, heat and light are provided. There is no virtue in not having enough money. Hard poverty is evil. It breeds resentment, faithless despair, violence, crime and bitterness. It distorts life and warps personality. It has to be fought.

But once there is enough, and more than enough, what do you do? What would you do with £25,000?

The world's riches are very unevenly distributed, and the sad fact is that when humanity is left to itself the rich get richer and the poor die of starvation. That, too, has to be fought. Too many of us are living impoverished lives.

It's the love of money that is dangerous: it becomes an addiction, a lust that gets out of control. 'How much is it worth?' becomes a matter of pounds and pence only.

It's wrong when you're awed by the ones who have money, despising the have-nots, as though they were automatically inferior. Some of the meanest and rudest and most shallow people I know are 'loaded'. Among the rich, financially, I have also found the most generous, kind and firmly faithful people, who deny themselves free time and even good health to relieve others. It is the individual character that matters.

Money is a means to an end, in this life, and it has to be a good end. The motive is what matters. If the end is selfish, or foolish or aggressive, then money is being misused. Like everything else that is a pleasure it can go to your head. The happiest people are those detached from money. They possess it, but are not possessed by it. To have enough for comfort, and be able to part with the surplus if necessary; that's ideal. That's freedom.

Back to the Bond winner, wouldn't it be far better to have a great many small prizes, of say £1,000, which would make a considerable difference to ordinary people, than these eye catching big lots that leave too many people with nothing at all?

Good luck to the girl in the factory anyway. May it bring her happiness. I wish it were me!

YOUR LETTERS

WOLFENDEN REPORT

In the March issue of *Point Three* (Director's Bin), I am not sure that Ken goes far enough in his comments on the Wolfenden Report. His view seems to me somewhat narrow if Toc H is to consider itself an effective voluntary organisation in the 1980s.

I would like to argue that one of the most effective ways a thinking organisation can make its contribution is by publicising the extent of the 'problem' it is dealing with. If the Samaritans had only contained the problems they encountered and not publicised the extent to which their service was being used, they would not have the widespread interest and support they have today. Toc H once campaigned for wider recognition of the evils of the remnants of the poor law provision in the 30s and in my day drew attention to the abysmal provision for half way hostels for the mentally disordered. Child Poverty Action Group brought the problems of 'poverty' to the attention of both local and national government. Had we and they not done so, these problems might still be barely contained by local charity.

If we are to be a thinking and caring organisation I feel we should find our place alongside other vigorous organisations in publicising, and prompting through pressure group type activities, the problems faced by 'minority concerns' in our society. As the Wolfenden Report argues, it is only in co-operation with other organisations that we are ever likely to get the full picture across. This needs no specialised professional caring, just a wider horizon and some wider thinking. What organisation 'speaks for' the concern for which you care at this moment? What is your relationship to it? It is these wider thoughts that I feel Ken did not mention in his article.

In the national debate which followed the publication of the Wolfenden Report, some commentators suggested that voluntary organisations should be: *A healthy antidote to the rigidity of the statutory services for if they were not then they would just become a silly appendage which serves merely to relieve the state of a few responsibilities*. (*New Society* 24 November 1977). Or (Times 23 November): *... instead of retreating submissively to the wings, voluntary organisations should recognise that they are making a large and growing contribution in identifying and making known social needs*. If the current system does stress the dependence and passivity of client and user (*Point Three* October 1973 - 'How to Run a City') it reduces also the opportunity of

the citizen both to give service and exercise choice when seeking a service.

From my position 'outside', I am not sure we have realised how influential our independent position is. It seems too, that we have a great deal to learn from the way other organisations have devised ways of recruiting volunteers and the concerns they have discovered.

In the past, Toc H has made its relationship with local authorities by historical accident rather than through policy or design. If one now looks at the voluntary sector and sees where the worthwhile contributions have been made in caring concern, I would argue that they can be found where vigorous policies for 'server' and 'served' have been argued, as in self help ventures like PHAB.

If voluntary organisations are responding to new social needs, complementing statutory services, acting as pressure groups, backing up 'informal neighbourly help' and in places being the sole provider of services, 'they ought to be encouraged' as Wolfenden said. Perhaps we need to encourage ourselves to see our contribution more in these forcible terms; not have a wishy washy caring condemned to a 'bin' but use our independence and our wider thinking to be more positive in our approach.

It seems to me that Ken's comments hardly began the debate. Are we being true to ourselves, and to our ideals, if we leave action purely at the 'informal ...'? Why should we not be brave enough, now we have our structures sorted out, to return to the real 'guts' of *Strategy for the 70s* and (to dig up a cliché from even further back) go on to the 'Second Mile'? I for one would welcome the chance to pursue this debate with Ken for fear that the ideas behind this important report may be condemned to a bin along with the rubbish - clearly they don't belong there!

Ray Fables
Leicester

CAPITATION FEES

As one of the many small branches referred to by Alan Hawkins in the April number of *Point Three*, we feel that he has hit the nail squarely on the head. Where members are elderly and some not in good health, energetic fund raising projects are not possible, though this does not mean that the commitment to Service is forgotten, and many kind acts go on behind the scenes and local charities are supported.

The continual prodding to send more to Family Purse and now this talk of a capitation fee of £12 per annum, will

- if proceeded with - deal the death blow to many struggling branches whose members have given what they can despite dwindling incomes and rising prices, and Toc H will be the poorer spiritually if not materially for their going.

Joan Rose
Wadhurst, E Sussex

On reading the April issue of *Point Three*, I noticed everyone exploding on the question of a capitation fee costing the membership 3p per day being outrageous and the suggestion of a madman! But no one has come forth with any constructive suggestion as to how Toc H can balance its budget and yet maintain the Movement as a viable and virile Christian one.

It would be inward thinking to concentrate on reducing the staff, cutting down HQ expenses etc. The answer might be in re-deployment of staff and more involvement with the roots of the Movement, ie the branches.

Doug Sobey
Gloucester

THOUGHTS ON EXTENSION

At the last Scottish Regional Conference, Adrian Dudman described involvement in membership as 'a ministry'. Many of us have the same conviction that Toc H has a message and example to be passed on to others. But is there a ministry taking place effectively in our Movement today? Are we giving extension enough priority?

At the last Central Council, our Director stated, 'We are unlikely to be a mass Movement - not, at any rate, without denying our heritage. We cannot measure our success in numerical terms, only in terms of our faithfulness to the vision we have glimpsed. Only in terms of the development of our capacity to give and accept love. You cannot measure it ... But it's the only thing that really matters'. (*Point Three* January 1978). Nevertheless, may I comment that we should still endeavour to let the public know that Toc H exists and what it stands for and give anyone who wishes to support our ideals the opportunity of sharing in our family? Are we today, in a sense, denying people membership because we do not effectively address the public?

How do we start to extend our ministry and 'strengthen the good thing thus begun'?

Firstly, there must be an awareness of the need to strengthen the Movement. Secondly, there must be a willingness to

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER

attempt to achieve this end. It has to be organised. We will need advice and leadership.

Most members would be willing to help locally. But I feel that if it is left to branches alone to stimulate an appreciable growth of Toc H the results will be slight. *The future of the Movement is something which Central Council should be giving top priority to.* We need 'a new mixture' of members who will see Toc H as a necessary organisation in our society — one which has a character of its own and is not just extending 'neighbourliness' or being an extension of the social work department.

To increase our numbers we must use publicity — directly and indirectly. Used properly it will not be an on cost but should be an investment for our future. We need a clear, simple statement initially which will challenge people to support us. The Movement has to be involved in worthwhile national efforts which in themselves will illustrate what Toc H stands for. The Health Centre at Pannikampatti in South India, for instance, should have had wider coverage in the media. We need, also a calculated growth rate target — say 100 new groups in 10 years. With our eight British Regions that would be only slightly more than one new group per year per Region. To implement this, Regions would need to arrange for trained extension teams of staff and members — possibly one in each district — ready to advise and help.

It would be most purposeful for Central Council to set up a 'Select Committee' this year to investigate all means of projecting the Movement's influence, perhaps with powers to have the advice of a public relations consultant, and report back with recommendations for the following Council.

In the meantime, may I make a plea to members with similar ideas to try and stimulate interest and endeavour to have resolutions made for their respective Central Councillors to take to the next Council meeting?

Jim Carnduff
Strathclyde

JIM DAVIES

My thoughts are stirred in reading of the Rev Jim Davies' death; it was my privilege to have frequent personal contact with him in the 1946-50 period. He was then Rector of Ayot St Lawrence & St Peter, Herts, and, also the Beds & Herts Toc H Padre. As you write, his Toc H 'creed' was simply expressed with a refreshing clarity to which he was wholly committed. His concern for the Ayot parishioners

with George Bernard Shaw as the oldest resident exemplified Padre Jim's Christian 'love in action'. GBS's lively mind was in tune with Padre Jim's clear and firm and robust faith as biographies and memoirs indicate.

I recall the many training sessions initiated and led by Padre Jim and his weekends in Ayot St Peter's disused village school loaned by Lord Brocket for Toc H use.

Padre Jim Davies' leadership is seen in the following extract from the biography of George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, by R C D Jasper:

a 'leader, who having a charge entrusted to him and a body of people at whose head he is placed, rather seeks to act as the interpreter of the best mind that is in them and to give it expression; to discover the "communis sensus" of the society and to use all the means in his power to give it the opportunity of expression. Such a leader will guide and show the way and he will teach and suggest . . . He will realise the diversity of human nature, of the material with which he has to deal and will give it, or lead it to, the best and the highest unity of which he believes it to be capable under the given conditions.'

Leslie Pritchard
Taunton, Somerset

TUBBY CLAYTON

I must confess that I am not one of these avid readers who devour *Point Three* from cover to cover. Thus, it is quite possible that I may have overlooked in past issues references to Tubby Clayton, the founder of Toc H. His spirit goes marching on and many of us have sweet memories of him to warm and inspire us.

Therefore, could we from time to time, have the odd article or anecdote written about him or by him? There was some wise and witty verse from his pen for instance well worth reading. One of his 'jobs' in the last war was as Chaplain to the Tanker Fleet and I have only recently discovered with pride that a ship in which I served in 1944 was one on which he had sailed in 1941, the Shell Tanker MV Diplodon.

Dick Crump
Carshalton

Editor's Note: Dick and other readers may be interested to know that Tom Gulliver has started work on a Toc H Anthology in which he hopes to include prose and verse of Tubby's and of the many other great writers the Movement has known. More of this project later!

For many years now, the 'Friends of All Hallows' have helped by their prayers and generous giving to sustain the parish in its wide ranging work.

This help is more important than ever as All Hallows looks to a year of expansion in proclaiming the Gospel and in strengthening its links with Toc H International, its many City friends and past members of its gathered congregation.

If you are already a 'Friend', don't let your interest flag; if you are not, this would be a good time to join. (The minimum annual membership subscription is £1.)

Please note these dates:

Saturday 10 June (12.45pm) — Buffet lunch followed by AGM. (It has been customary for Friends to undertake specific projects and at this meeting you will be invited to choose one from the wide range of current needs.)

Sunday 1 October (4 pm) — Michaelmas Evensong.

Do you subscribe to the bulletin *Tower Hill* which will keep you in touch with all the news? This attractive news sheet is published monthly and costs £1.50 a year (including postage). You can order this — and make any enquiries — from the parish General Office, whose address is: The Porch Room, Byward Street, London EC3 5BJ.

In our April issue, we announced that the first annual Toc H Service at All Hallows celebrating the life and ministry of Tubby Clayton would be held on Saturday 30 September at 3 pm. The preacher will be the Bishop of Buckingham. Please note that all applications for tickets should go direct to All Hallows at the General Office address given above

PEN FRIENDS WANTED!

A Scottish member who lives with her widowed mother would like correspondents in the United States, Switzerland and England. She has a wide range of interests and three much loved dogs. If any member would like to write, let the Editor know and he will put you in touch.

The Wider Family

Rhodesia South Africa

Mrs Robb Mascetti writes from Salisbury with some news items. She is working away at improving her braille. So far, she has passed with distinction the South African Council's elementary examination and is about to tackle the advanced examination: that will place her on the official list of transcribers. Already she is busy setting a book into braille for the Rhodesian Society for the Blind. She adds: 'There are quite a number of young men who've been blinded from landmine and other terrorist activities in Rhodesia, and I think it is very necessary to do all I can for these very brave chaps. One of the members of the Salisbury Men's Branch . . . is also blind so I'm also able to put the branch programme into braille for him . . .' ' . . . life in Rhodesia these days is very trying — and dangerous — for many people, especially those living in places outside the main cities . . . of course we all pray that there may be a settlement soon . . .' Copies of *Point Three* are 'read with great interest and get passed around. It's a joy to read the news from other branches in the world family'.

Eleazer: whom God has helped

Eighteen months ago, a young South African housewife saw her children off to school, running nimbly down the garden path and jumping with exuberance as they waved goodbye. Lauretta went inside and pondered deeply the problem which had been bothering her for months — how could she help cripples to find more meaning in life? She knew that white physically handicapped children went to special schools financed by the Department of National Education, and that State Aided Cripple Care Associations catered for black and for Indian children. But a leisurely drive through the coloured quarter of Austerville, followed by visits to pathetic little bundles of humanity huddled in a doorstep or sitting listlessly on a bed staring into space, feeling useless and unwanted, spurred her into action.

In South Africa the coloureds are classified separately from whites, Indians and blacks. They are the progeny of white settlers who married into indigenous tribes 300 years ago. Many have been uprooted and resettled under the Group Areas Act. In Natal they are mainly English speaking and are faithful adherents of Christian churches. Law abiding and hard working, the problem of adequate cripple care has been a major problem for families living on modest salaries in overcrowded areas.

Lauretta Hochstadter went into action. She contacted Mr George, the Regional Representative of the Coloured Affairs Dept, who found a workshop where adult cripples could be taught basic skills. She appealed to retired men and had an instant response from Stanley Boisson and Jack Boon, both members of Toc H. Stanley supplied tools and timber and trained Mr James, a double amputee (leaning against the bus in the picture) who had been retired from the Merchant Navy when he lost his second leg. In a few weeks Mr James was producing toys and small items of furniture while Mr Marcus (foreground in picture) learnt basketry with amazing skill and ease. Jack Boon, a retired engineer, made metal templates and instructed willing hands, including those of Horace Clothier, a cerebral palsy patient, and Mr Murray, paralysed from the waist, in their use.

Very soon the idea spread among Toc H wives who gave one morning every week to help the instructors in weaving, knitting and embroidery.

At the Toc H Fete last year a special stall was set up to sell goods produced by the Eleazar Work Centre. Eleazar means 'He whom God aids' and the name is certainly apt. Since its inception the Centre has become autonomous, and is registered with the Department of Social Welfare. It is run by a Committee under Mr Leaf and since the sudden deaths of both Stanley Boisson and Jack Boon, Mr Robertson has been appointed as a full time organiser.

The proceeds from the Toc H Fete were used to buy a minibus, to transport the members to and from the Eleazar Work Centre. Many had previously to rely on the help of private drivers to make special trips, so the bus is invaluable.

At a special function on 27 February this year, the bus was handed over by Bill Goldfinch, Regional Chairman of Toc H, to Mr Leaf, Chairman of Eleazar Work Centre. About 150 people, half of whom were Toc H members, watched this ceremony with gratitude and thankfulness. No longer will potential talent and skill be left to languish, but will be used to maintain self respect and to serve God and the community.

Vancouver (BC)

Vancouver Toc H is beavering away to prepare its 'flashing light' scheme. The pilot project is to be launched by the Oakridge Lions Club and it is hoped that government funding will eventually be made available. There has already been a fair amount of advance publicity. Please keep us posted. Vancouver!

Australia

They certainly travel in Australia! This year's Council is being held in Perth, Western Australia and 50 members from the Eastern States and South Australia are making the round trip of 4,000 miles in a chartered bus.

by Phebe Leeman

(General Members' Secretary, Natal Area)

The picture shows the presentation of a minibus by Toc H to Eleazar Work Centre, Austerville, Durban on 27 February 1978. In the picture (L to R) are: Pam Herd (Natal Area Jobmaster), Bill Goldfinch (Natal Area Chairman), Lauretta Hochstadter (Work Centre Founder), Mr Marcus, Mr George, Mr James, Horace Clothier, Mr Murray.

Readers will be interested in this extract from a letter from Heather Hughes recently received by the International Secretary. Many members will remember Heather who was in London doing post-graduate studies 1976-7. During her stay here, she was closely associated with the Toc H branch at Talbot House whose members write regularly to the Johannesburg 'Bridgebuilders' Group referred to in Heather's letter.

'Our small Bridgebuilders' Branch has been suffering some rather violent ups and downs. What we have done now is to make this group the centre of a volunteers corps — Margie is very keen to get volunteers off the ground again. This apparently was discussed at the National Executive meeting a few weeks ago, and some members were taken with the idea. Our own Bridgebuilders' project at present is situated in a place called Western Native Township — a squalid and very poor "coloured" area. We've started a food parcel distribution scheme and a small playgroup and we are also trying to get some clothes together, specially for the children. There is great need in this area, and due to really terrible living conditions, the population is completely demoralised. So I think there's great scope, if we go about it in the right way and not just "dishing out" charity.

'Our group still meets regularly

and Margie and I have planned a programme for the next six or so months on the theme 'Social Needs'. We'll examine areas like old age, physical handicaps, alcoholism, prostitution, suicide, etc. What we're trying to provide is discussion points...!'

We have just heard from Alec Bullivant, Hon Administrator Toc H (S Africa), updating progress in the area. The Natal story to which he refers is covered in detail elsewhere on this page.

'... In the Cape Town area we now have considerable development. Three new groups in the black townships, a group of eight members from the coloured community, a group at the University of Cape Town, whilst Ray Mtetwa is busy with a group of black students.

Port Elizabeth are very active in support of their gift shops and all branches are reported alive and well.

Transkei has now become a separate area, with Vic Pahlana, who was branch chairman, now a full time field officer. We feel that with his longer experience of Toc H and his mature judgement, "oom" * Vic will pull the Transkei through its recent troubles.

Natal continues to progress. Within one year exactly, they raised 3,000 rand to buy a minibus for the use of a work centre for coloured cripples and two Toc H members were instrumental in starting this workshop. Apart from using the minibus for transport, the centre feel that they can now form their own paraplegic sports team.

Finally, Transvaal, under its new chairman, Jimmy Allan, is on a revival course, ably assisted by the enthusiasm generated by Margaret Lebish, who in addition to her liaison with existing units, has started up a "Young Helpers" group and a "Bridgebuilders" (multi-racial) group. She also has a group called "Friends of Mhloteeni" who have linked up with a local branch in Johannesburg. This group has made one exploratory visit to Transkei and another trip is scheduled for Easter, with more to follow later in the year.

Our National Padre, Eddie Edwards, sets off in April on a Republic wide visit to our far flung Areas, not only to visit as many branches and groups as possible, but also to meet and talk with present and potential padres and pilots...'

*'oom' — African term of affection equivalent to our 'uncle'



Photo: Daily News, Durban

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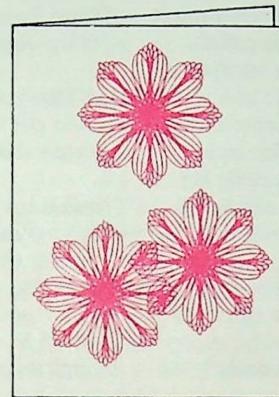
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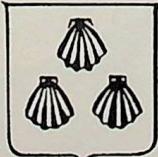
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Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. Telephone: 0296 623911.



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